

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 NICOSI 02671 061049Z

14

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

----- 130784

O 060810Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4341

S E C R E T NICOSIA 2671

NODIS

FROM HOUGHTON AND MACK

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR LE

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH GEMAYEL

REF: STATE 215513

1. PIERRE GEMAYAL RECEIVED ME AT HIS MOUNTAIN HOME EARLY IN THE MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 3. IN AN EFFORT TO AVOID ANY MISUNDERSTANDINGS I READ MY PRESENTATION FROM FRENCH NOTES TRANSLATED FROM OUR TALKING POINTS. SHEIKH PIERRE IS A MAN OF GRAT CHARACTER, BUT HIS MIND IS NOT SUBTLE OR ATTUNED TO NUANCES OF LANGUAGE. IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE, THEREFORE, TO ELICIT A DETAILED REACTION TO OUR TALKING POINTS, HOWEVER MUCH WE TRIED.

2. GEMAYEL BEGAN BY DESCRIBING OUR PRESENTATION AS "VERY OBJECTIVE BUT VERY GENERAL." HE THEN LAUNCHED INTO A LENGTHY LECTURE, ALONG THE LINES WE DESCRIBED AFTER OUR FIRST VISIT, ON THE RELATIONSHIPS AMONG INTER-NATIONSL COMMUNISM, DEMOCRACY, THE MIDDLE EAST, THE PALESTINIAN ROLE IN LEBANON AND THE PHALANGE'S TRADITIONAL FRIENDSHIP FOR THE US. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE CURRENT TALKS BETWEEN THE PHALANGISTS AND THE PALESTINIANS WERE MAKING PROGRESS BUT DOUBTED A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION TO SUCH DISCUSSIONS WITHOUT A CENTRAL LEBANESE FORCE OR AN EXTERNAL FORCE TO INSURE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 NICOSI 02671 061049Z

CAIRO ACCORDS. HE ALSO LAMENTED THA LACK OF A UNITED

PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY WITH WHICH TO DEAL. ON THE SUBJECT OF PRESIDENT-ELECT SARKIS, GEMAYEL COULD ONLY SAY THAT HE WAS A GOOD AND INTELLIGENT MAN BUT NOT A STRONG ONE. SARKIS HAD, THEREFORE, ALL THE MORE NEED FOR A CENTRAL FORCE IF HE WAS TO ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING.

3. WE PROBED FOR A REACTION TO THE TWO POSSIBLE DANGERS WE SAW AS RISING IN THE ABSENCE OF A SETTLEMENT. GEMAYEL DECLARED THAT THE BALANCE OF ARAB ELEMENTS WAS MORE LIKELY OVER A PERIOD OF TIME TO TILT IN LEBANON'S FAVOR. THE FIRST SIGN, HE SAID, WAS THE SITUATION IN KUWAIT. OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES ARE COMING TO REALIZE, ACCORDING TO GEMAYEL, THAT INTERNATIONAL COMMUNISM IS EXPLOITING BOTH ISLAM AND THE PALESTINIANS. IN HIS VIEW THE USG SHOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS NEW AWARENESS BY DEMANDING THAT SAUDI ARABIA AND KUWAIT TAKE A MORE POSITIVE STANCE TOWARD LEBANON. WHILE CONCEDED THAT THE USG HAD BEEN PLAYING A POSITIVE ROLE, HE ARGUED THAT IT WAS FAR LESS THAN THE SITUATION AND THE LONG HISTORY OF USG/LEBANESE FRIENDSHIP REQUIRED.

4. SHEIKH PIERRE WOULD NOT RESPOND DIRECTLY TO OUR QUESTION OF THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE SYRIANS SUPPORTED MARONITE GOALS, BUT HE DID SPEAK VERY WARMLY OF PRESIDENT ASAD. ASAD, DECLARED GEMAYEL, HAD REACTIONS AS AN ARAB, NOT AS A MUSLIM. THIS REVOLUTIONARY STEP HAD SERVED TO REMIND AND MAKE LEBANESE PROUD OF THEIR ARABISM. OTHER MUSLIM ARAB LEADERS WERE READY TO TAKE THE SAME KIND OF STANCE TOWARD LEBANON, HE THOUGHT, AND THE USG SHOULD ENCOURAGE THEM TO DO SO.

5. COMMENT:

AS SHEIKH PIERRE SEEMINGLY IGNORED MANY ASPECTS OF OUR POSITION, WE ASSURED THAT THE PHALANGE HIGH COMMAND WAS AWARE OF ALL THE NUANCES BY MEANS OF OUR DETAILED FOLLOW-UP BRIEFINGS OF AMIN GEMAYEL AND KARIM PAKRADOUNI. (SEPTELS FOLLOW) AS A RESULT, WE ARE SATISFIED THAT OUR MESSAGE GOT THROUGH ACCURATELY TO THE PHALANGE.

DILLERY

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 NICOSI 02671 061049Z

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CHRISTIANS, PERSONAL OPINION, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, MEETING REPORTS, POLITICAL LEADERS, POLITICAL SITUATION, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976NICOSI02671
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P840099-0168
From: NICOSIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760988/aaaacxiy.tel
Line Count: 107
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 76 STATE 215513
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 APR 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <05 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEETING WITH GEMAYEL
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, LE, SY, PHALANGE, (GEMAYEL, PIERRE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006